

Adoption Facts

- The goal of Michigan's Adoption Services Program is to place children in permanent homes through adoption as quickly as possible following termination of parental rights.
- Whenever possible, these placements are with families that already have an existing relationship or attachment to the child (relatives and foster parents) where siblings are placed together in an adoptive home.
- Financial support and/or medical subsidy may be provided to adoptive families through the Adoption Subsidy Program to encourage the placement of eligible children who have been in Michigan's foster care program.

During Fiscal Year 2004

- There were 2,684 adoptions finalized through DHS offices and private adoption agencies.
- More than 300 adoptions were finalized on Nov. 23 during Michigan's second annual Adoption Day 2004.
- Ninety-three percent of the children were adopted by a relative or foster parent.
- Seventy-nine percent were adopted with at least one sibling.
- Approximately 6,200 children in the DHS foster care system have parental rights terminated.
- Approximately 4,500 of the children in foster care have a goal of adoption. The remaining are either older youths who are satisfied with their placement and do not wish to be adopted (those 14 years of age and older have that option) or youth with other living arrangements where adoption is not appropriate.

How it works

- The Adoption Services Program provides services to children whose parental rights have been terminated due to child abuse or neglect and to families who want to adopt.
- Services are provided either directly by local DHS office adoption staff or through adoption purchase of service contracts with approximately 50 private Michigan child-placing agencies.
- Children receiving adoption services are in foster care and may have needs that make finding an appropriate adoptive home more challenging – they are older children, a member of a racial or ethnic minority, part of a sibling group that should be placed together, or they have physical, mental or emotional impairments.
- The Adoption Services Division is responsible for adoption, adoption contract management, the adoption subsidy and medical subsidy programs, Central Adoption Registry and the Michigan Children's Institute (MCI).

Barriers to Adoption

Children available are permanent state wards that cannot return to their birth home. These children often have social or psychological needs as a result of being victims of abuse and neglect. They may be emotionally guarded and apprehensive about accepting placement in an adoptive home. Children may be older and/or have siblings with whom they should be adopted or maintain contact. Families wishing to adopt children from the foster care system need to be prepared to face the challenges of providing permanency in a nurturing environment. This division is currently researching options for post adoption services including developing and implementing plans to assist adoption families.

For more information

- For more information on **Michigan Adoption Day** go to this Internet Web site: www.courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Press/MichiganAdoptionDayIndex.htm
- For more information on **children awaiting adoption in Michigan** go to www.mare.org
- For more information on **children awaiting adoption in the U.S.** go to www.adoptUSkids.org
- For more information on **public adoption policies and data** go to www.michigan.gov/dhs and click on "Adoption"
- For more information on **National Adoption Day** go to www.nationaladoptionday.com